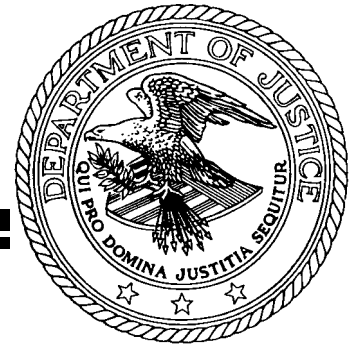


NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - April 23, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today that three New Jersey residents were arrested in that state in connection with charges of mail fraud, conspiracy and money laundering brought in the Southern District of California. Stanley Fitzgerald, his wife, Donna Fitzgerald, and his mother, Josephine Fitzgerald, of Caldwell, New Jersey are alleged to have conspired to commit mail fraud, operating Stan's Sports Memorabilia out of their homes as part of a scheme to sell forged sports and celebrity memorabilia via the internet and mail order from 1995-1999.

According to the indictment, the defendants would send unsigned items of memorabilia to individuals in the San Diego area, requesting that the items be autographed by deceased persons. The indictment further alleges that the defendants would provide their customers with fictitious Certificates of Authenticity, falsely representing that an independent third party had evaluated the signatures and found them to be genuine.

The indictment also alleges that the defendants committed numerous acts in furtherance of their conspiracy, including for example in November 1995, three months after the death of Mickey Mantle, defendant Stanley Fitzgerald ordered 1,000 Mickey Mantle photographs from a supplier; in March 1998 defendant Josephine Fitzgerald sent a facsimile to a supplier of forged memorabilia in San Marcos, California, advising that an album cover would be sent to the supplier to be autographed by Stevie Ray Vaughan, then deceased; in August 1999 defendant Donna Fitzgerald ordered 7,875 copies printed of a certificate of authenticity of a supposedly independent third party authenticator fraudulently attesting that the signatures on memorabilia were genuine; and in July 1999 defendant Stanley Fitzgerald sent a note to a supplier of forged memorabilia in San Marcos, California, directing him to “upgrade” the autographed Joe DiMaggio baseballs Fitzgerald had sent him to Joe DiMaggio and Mickey Mantle combinations, knowing that Mantle was deceased at the time.

Defendants Stanley Fitzgerald and Josephine Fitzgerald were also charged with conspiracy to launder money, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h), and one count of money laundering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(A)(i). According to the indictment, the two defendants opened a bank account into which the proceeds of their mail fraud scheme were deposited. The two defendants are alleged to have used these bank accounts to promote the mail fraud scheme by purchasing forged memorabilia, products, mailing lists, postage, labels, building renovations, and other items needed to further the scheme to defraud, in amounts totaling over \$2 million. The indictment further alleges that on October 13, 1999, while a search warrant was being executed at his residence, defendant Stanley Fitzgerald purchased a \$500,000 cashier’s check from the West Essex Bank account, payable to Autograph Memorabilia, Inc., and deposited it into an account owned by the defendants. The indictment also includes a forfeiture allegation which seeks to forfeit one of the residences in Caldwell, New Jersey, as well as other assets valued up to \$2 million.

All three defendants were arraigned today in federal court in New Jersey. They were released on bond, and will make their next appearance before a United States Magistrate Judge in San Diego.

DEFENDANTS

Criminal Case No. 04-CR-1070-W

Stanley Fitzgerald
Caldwell, New Jersey

Donna Fitzgerald
Caldwell, New Jersey

Josephine Fitzgerald
Caldwell, New Jersey

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Count 1 (all defendants)

Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371
Maximum Penalty: 5 years in custody and/or \$250,000 fine

Count 2 (Stanley Fitzgerald and Josephine Fitzgerald)

Conspiracy to Launder Money, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h)
Maximum Penalty: 20 years in custody and/or \$500,000 fine

Counts 3-16 (all defendants)

Mail Fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341
Maximum Penalty: 20 years in custody and/or \$250,000 fine per count

Count 17 (Stanley Fitzgerald and Josephine Fitzgerald)

Money Laundering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(A)(i)
Maximum Penalty: 20 years in custody and/or \$500,000 fine

AGENCIES

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.